



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2006  
**District:** 5 (Santa Barbara, SLO, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## HIGHWAY 183 TO GET MAJOR UPGRADE BY CALTRANS

*Public Information Meeting set for Wednesday, Sept. 27 @ 11 am*

**SALINAS** – Construction to repave and improve a 2.1-mile section of Highway 183 (West Market and North Main Streets) is scheduled to begin at the end of this month, Caltrans officials have announced.

The estimated \$7.1 million project will replace from four to 17 inches of roadway pavement at the intersection of US 101 and Highway 183, and from just south of Monterey Street to just north of Market Circle.

“This safety project will improve both the highway and sidewalk accessibility,” said Caltrans District Director Rich Krumholz.

“The city is very excited about the project,” said City Engineer Rob Russell. “We believe that it will be a significant improvement to the entire street segment. It will also be a tremendous boost and aesthetic enhancement to one of the primary gateways into the city of Salinas.”

Caltrans will host a Public Information Meeting to discuss the project from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Ave., Salinas. Caltrans staff will be available to answer questions from the public.

The project will also construct or improve curbs, gutters and sidewalks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. In addition, it will reconstruct two median pedestrian islands located on the north and southwest corners of the intersection of Highway 183 and Salinas Street.

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Other major improvements for the project include repaving 72 commercial and residential concrete driveways and upgrading drainage facilities, guardrails and traffic signals in the project limits.

The project will replace about 41 Mayten trees with the following trees: seven London plane, 15 ornamental pear and 17 Brisbane Box.

Caltrans and city staff worked together to select the tree species that would blend with the existing street trees and have non-aggressive root systems to lessen conflicts with sidewalks and the roadway, said Scott Dowlan, Caltrans landscape architect. "Planting a variety of species helps limit the possibility of plant diseases wiping out all the trees at one time."

Pavex Construction of San Jose is the contractor for the project.

Construction is scheduled for completion in summer 2007, and landscaping in winter 2008—weather permitting. Most work will occur during normal daytime hours with occasional nighttime work.

The work will be done in eight stages, beginning at the intersection of US 101 and Highway 183.

Each stage will take from one to four weeks to complete. During the first stage, the northbound on-ramp to US 101 from Highway 183 will be closed. Traffic will be detoured to Laurel Drive. The southbound US 101 on-ramp from Main Street will also be closed, and traffic will be detoured to John Street or Davis Road.

During construction, one lane in both directions will remain open at all times on Highway 183. Whenever possible, a turning lane will be provided. Access to businesses and residences will also be maintained.

Caltrans is coordinating the project with the City of Salinas. The SHOPP (State Highway Operation and Protection Program) project is funded through the State Highway Account.

For lane closure information on this project, or traffic updates on other Caltrans projects in Monterey County, please call the District 5 toll free number at 1-831-372-0862 or visit our web site at [www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upmon.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upmon.htm)

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